

Update of Data on Employees Affected By
Federal Security ProgramsGAO
Rep Brooks
Rep Ford
Rec'd 26 July 88 Sen Pryor

In a March 22, 1988, letter (Attachment 1), Chairmen Brooks, Ford and Pryor asked GAO to assist them in updating data involving government agencies' information and personnel security programs. The chairmen asked GAO to handle responses to a questionnaire that they were sending to all executive branch agencies, requesting data for calendar years 1986 and 1987 (attachment 2). GAO was asked to compile the data and include it in a report, as was done for calendar years 1984 and 1985 in GAO/NSIAD-86-189FS, September 29, 1986 (attachment 3).

The questionnaires for the previous and current reviews are similar, and most agencies have responded to the current request, including data in questions 3-7 that concern SCI access. Two agencies, the Department of Commerce and the United States Information Agency, declined to provide such data explaining that they believed the data to be CIA proprietary information, and suggested that GAO contact the CIA Office of Congressional Affairs. We would appreciate responses to questions 3-7 for the two agencies, either from the Office of Congressional Affairs or the agencies themselves, if so authorized by that office. Several agencies have been delayed in responding to the questionnaire; it is possible that some may also defer the SCI questions to CIA.

Congressional concerns appear to be directed to the use of nondisclosures agreements, especially those providing for prepublication review. We plan to report SCI access data in totals only, without identifying specific agencies.

Please contact Irv Boker (275-3973) or Don Lentz (275-4052).

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 22, 1988

The Honorable Charles A. Bowsher
Comptroller General of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear General:

In preparation for hearings in October of 1983 by the Government Operations Committee on the Federal Government's policies on prepublication censorship and polygraph testing, the General Accounting Office conducted a survey of the Federal agencies. In September of 1986, that survey was updated for Calendar Years 1984 and 1985, and extended to include a general survey of information classification and access programs. GAO's report entitled Information and Personnel Security; Data on Employees Affected by Federal Security Programs, has been extremely useful to Congress in consideration of numerous legislative proposals and oversight projects conducted recently.

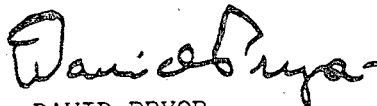
In anticipation of Congress' active consideration of various new proposals regarding government secrecy and the Executive's information and personnel security programs this year, we request that a further update be made for Calendar Years 1986 and 1987. We request that this project be started immediately in order that it may be completed by early summer. Because the agencies have now been queried twice regarding this information, they should have no trouble responding quickly to your questionnaire.

Thank you very much for your attention to this request. With every good wish, we are

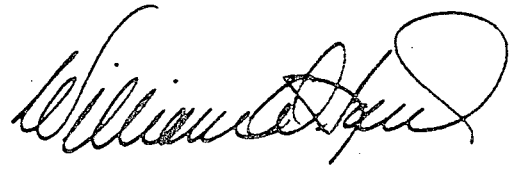
Sincerely,



JACK BROOKS
Chairman
Committee on Government
Operations



DAVID PRYOR
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal
Services, Post Office
and Civil Service



WILLIAM A. FORD
Chairman
Committee on Post Office
and Civil Service

United States Senate


WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

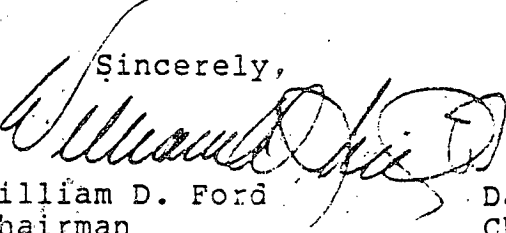
Dear

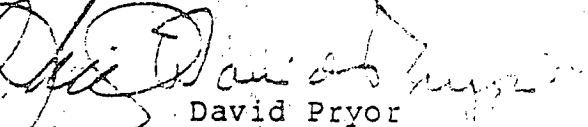
Since 1984, the General Accounting Office, at the request of the Committees on Government Operations and Post Office and Civil Service, has conducted several surveys of the government's information and personnel security programs. Their last survey covered calendar years 1984 and 1985. We have requested the General Accounting Office to obtain updated and additional information relative to calendar years 1986 and 1987. We would appreciate your response to the enclosed questionnaire by May 16, 1988.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,


Jack Brooks
Chairman
Committee on
Government Operations


William D. Ford
Chairman
Committee on Post Office
and Civil Service


David Pryor
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Federal Services,
Post Office and
Civil Service

United States General Accounting Office

Fact Sheet for Congressional Requesters

GAO

September 1986

INFORMATION AND PERSONNEL SECURITY

Data on Employees Affected by Federal Security Programs



GAO/NSIAD-86-189FS